

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SAM-01 /075 W
----- 034995

R 161441Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2673

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 05662

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 5662 VICE 5610)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IS , OVIP (USERY, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: FUNCTIONS OF THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF LABOR

REF: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH SEAN HOLLY NEA/RA

1. AS REQUESTED HERE ARE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE KEY DEPARTMENTS OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THEIR FUNCTIONS:

THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. AMONG THE KEY ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE
PURVIEW OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR ARE LABOR RELATIONS, EMPLOYMENT,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NATIONAL INSURANCE.

2. LABOR RELATIONS. WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS ARE NEGOTIATED
FREELY BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND LABOR UNIONS, IN MOST CASES REPRESENTED BY THE HISTADRUT. THE MINISTRY'S CHIEF LABOR RELATIONS
OFFICER MAY MEDIATE IN DISPUTES AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE, OR ON
THE INVITATION OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

3. EMPLOYMENT. THE SERVICES LAW (1959) REQUIRES ALL WORKERS
SEEKING EMPLOYMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROFESSIONALS, SENIOR
CIVIL SERVANTS AND THOSE ENTERING FAMILY BUSINESS, TO DO SO
THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT LABOR EXCHANGE SERVICE, WHICH IS
OPERATED BY THE MINISTRY. THE SERVICE HAS 205 EXCHNAGES;
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SEPARATE BUREAUS ARE PROVIDED FOR, AMONG OTHERS, ACADEMICALLY

TRAINED WORKERS AND FOR MINORS.

4. VOCATIONAL TRAINING. THE APPRENTICESHIP LAW (1953) REQUIRES ALL WORKING MINORS TO ATTEND A VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK. COURSES ARE RUN BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS HADASSAH, AMAL AND WIZO, AND BY THE MINISTRY, WHICH OPERATES TRAINING CENTERS WITH AN ANNUAL ENROLLMENT OF ABOUT 20,000.

5. LABOR INSPECTION. THE MINISTRY HAS A DIVISION OF LABOR INSPECTION, WHICH ENFORCES LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS, EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN, HOURS OF WORK AND REST AND ANNUAL LEAVE, AS WELL AS LAWS AND REGULATIONS DEALING WITH SIMILAR MATTERS. INSPECTORS ARE EMPOWERED TO INSPECT, EXAMINE AND ENFORCE THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS; ALSO TO GRANT, WHERE AND WHEN NECESSARY, SPECIAL PERMITS FOR OVERTIME WORK, FOR WORK ON THE WEEKLY DAY OF REST, FOR NIGHT WORK AND FOR OTHER EXCEPTIONS TO STANDARD PROCEDURES.

6. THE ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF PRODUCTIVITY. THIS INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1951 BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY, THE HISTADRUT, THE ISRAEL MANUFACTURER'S ASSOCIATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF: "RESEARCH, TRAINING AND INTRODUCTION OF MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO ACHIEVE BETTER USE OF HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES, AND TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF PRODUCTIVITY IN THE ISRAELI ECONOMY." THE INSTITUTE'S CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE: (A) INTRODUCTION OF MODERN INDUSTRIAL MANAGERIAL TECHNIQUES; (B) RESEARCH INTO THE ADVANCEMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY; (C) A CONSULTATION SERVICE, FOR ENTERPRISES AND INSTITUTIONS, IN SUBJECTS RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR; (D) TRAINING OF MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS AND TECHNICIANS, AND (E) THE ORGANIZATION OF A TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE.

7. THE NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE. ESTABLISHED IN 1954, THE INSTITUTE IS UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR. IT SERVES AS ISRAEL'S SOCIAL SECURITY AUTHORITY, AND HAS TWO BROAD AREAS OF ACTIVITY: (A) THE COLLECTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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INSURANCE PAYMENTS, AND (B) THE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS, INCLUDING: OLD AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE; WORK INJURY COMPENSATION; MATERNITY LEAVE ALLOWANCES FOR WORKING MOTHERS; AND LARGE FAMILY PAYMENTS -- GIVEN TO FAMILIES WITH THREE OR MORE CHILDREN. THE MINISTRY ALSO OPERATES SEPARATE SECTIONS FOR THE LABOR ADMINISTRATION IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV05662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760316-1168
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760848/aaaabpzw.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUNCTIONS OF THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF LABOR
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, OVIP, IS, (USERY, WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006